

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the Notice of Withdrawal From Issue Under 37 CFR 1.313(b) mailed September 12, 2005, and the non-final Office Action mailed October 21, 2005. Claims 1-15 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-5, 7, and 8 stand rejected. Specifically, Claims 1-5, 7, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,874,942) in view of Ishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,702,466) and design choice.

Claims 10-15 have been allowed, and Claims 6 and 9 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to these rejections and objections, independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled; independent Claim 4 has been amended to recite all of the elements/limitations of objected to, but otherwise allowable, dependent Claim 6 (now canceled); and independent Claim 7 has been amended to recite all of the elements/limitations of objected to, but otherwise allowable, dependent Claim 9 (now canceled); all without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits.

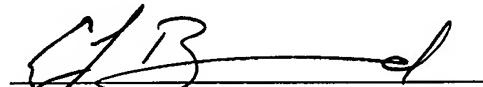
Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 1-5, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,874,942) in view of Ishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,702,466) and design choice has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn. Accordingly, pending Claims 10-15 have been allowed, and pending Claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 are now allowable. Claims 1-3, 6, and 9 have been canceled.

CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christopher L. Bernard, Esq.
Registration No.: 48,234
Attorney for Applicants

DOUGHERTY, CLEMENTS, HOFER, BERNARD & WALKER

1901 Roxborough Road, Suite 300
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211 USA
Telephone: 704.366.6642
Facsimile: 704.366.9744
cbernard@worldpatents.com